

ISSUE DATE: April 13, 2000

DOCKET NO. P-404, 407, 520, 405, 426, 427, 421, 430/CP-96-1047

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS, DIRECTING IMPLEMENTATION AND
REQUIRING RATE FILING

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Edward A. Garvey
Joel Jacobs
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayner

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from the Le Sueur Exchange of
US WEST Communications, Inc. to the
Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 9, 1996, subscribers in the Le Sueur exchange filed a petition for extended area service to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (the MCA). US WEST Communications, Inc. (US WEST) serves the Le Sueur exchange.

On March 21, 1997, the Commission issued its ORDER REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. In that Order the Commission found that the Le Sueur filing met the first two criteria for a successful EAS petition: Le Sueur is adjacent to the MCA; and sufficient traffic volume exists between the petitioning exchange and the petitioned local calling area. The Commission set the matter for polling and ordered the affected telephone companies to submit cost studies and proposed rates.

Between October 20 and 23, 1997, the telephone companies filed their cost studies and proposed rates.

On January 21, 1998, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments.

On April 29, 1999, the Commission issued its ORDER ACCEPTING COST STUDIES AND ESTABLISHING RATES FOR POLLING. In this Order the Commission adopted rates and directed polling of subscribers in the Le Sueur exchange. The Commission indicated concerns about line counts, rounding and EAS rate ratios in the cost studies proposed for the MCA exchanges and directed that if a majority of the Le Sueur subscribers voted in favor of EAS to the MCA, the affected companies serving the MCA were to work with the Department to revise and correct their proposed EAS additives. Polling of subscribers in the Le Sueur exchange took place between January 7 and February 22, 2000.

On March 28, 2000 the Commission met to consider this matter.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. Certification of Polling Results

The results of the polling show that a majority of voting subscribers in the Le Sueur exchange voted in favor of EAS between Le Sueur and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Calling Area (MCA). The results were as follows:

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
Le Sueur	MCA	\$8.86	\$21.96	69.8	1,622	70.5	680	29.5

II. Order for Installation

The third and final criterion for EAS is that the majority of customers responding to a poll in the petitioning exchange favor the proposed EAS. Because a majority of the Le Sueur customers returning their ballots voted in favor of EAS between Le Sueur and the MCA the third and final criterion for this route is met.

Accordingly the Commission will direct USWC to implement the requested EAS route within 12 months of the date of this Order. To expedite and coordinate the implementation process, the Commission will order USWC to coordinate the implementation of EAS with the other telephone companies serving the MCA and require USWC and the telephone companies serving the MCA to file schedules of the planned implementation within 60 days of this Order. The companies, including USWC, will also be required to immediately notify the Commission if there is any change in the implementation schedule and explain the reasons for the change.

The Commission in its April 29, 1999 ORDER ACCEPTING COST STUDIES AND ESTABLISHING RATES FOR POLLING ordered the affected companies serving the MCA to work with the Department, if a majority of the Le Sueur subscribers voted in favor of EAS, to revise and correct their EAS additives and to address the issues of line counts, rounding and the basis of comparison for EAS rate ratios. Since the Le Sueur subscribers approved EAS, the affected companies in the MCA will be directed to address these issues and within 60 days of this Order file rates, for Commission approval, based on 25 percent of the total revenue requirement for the Le Sueur EAS route.

III. Miscellaneous

Details regarding required customer notices, recovery of non-recurring costs and tariff filing requirements are set forth in the Ordering paragraphs.

ORDER

1. The petition for EAS between Le Sueur and the MCA is approved. USWC shall implement the service within 12 months following the date of this Order.
2. The telephone companies serving the MCA shall work with the Department to revise and correct their proposed EAS additives to address the three issues raised by the Department: line counts; rounding; and the basis of comparison for EAS rate ratios.
3. Within 60 days of the date of this Order, the telephone companies currently serving the MCA shall file rates based on 25 percent of the total revenue requirement for the Le Sueur EAS route. The rates shall be based on the costs in the record as of April 29, 1999 and shall be submitted to the Department and the Commission for review and approval. The Department shall have 60 days to review the rates. After the Commission approves MCA rates, the companies serving MCA shall follow the notice and tariff requirement set out in Ordering Paragraphs 8 and 9, below.
4. USWC shall coordinate implementation of EAS with the other telephone companies serving the MCA. USWC and the other telephone companies serving the MCA shall file implementation schedules within 60 days of this Order. If, for some reason, the implementation schedules change, the companies, including USWC, shall immediately notify the Commission and explain the reason(s) for the change(s).
5. USWC shall file the first of two proposed customer notices, regarding the Le Sueur exchange, for approval by the Commission within 10 days of the date of this Order. The notices shall list the results of the polling, the EAS additives and the proposed implementation date. After approval, USWC shall serve the notice in the first possible billing cycle for its Le Sueur exchange.
6. USWC shall send a final, Commission approved, notice to its Le Sueur customers, either by bill insert or separate mailing. This final notice shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional monthly rates, the date of implementation and any other pertinent information. The Company shall issue this final notice one month before it implements EAS.
7. USWC shall make any requests for recovery of non-recurring costs at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. The Department shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.

8. All telephone companies serving the MCA shall file proposed customer notices for approval by Commission staff 90 days before the anticipated implementation dates for the Le Sueur route. This notification shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The companies shall include their notices in the billing cycles that conclude at least one month, but not more than two months, before EAS is implemented.
9. USWC and all affected telephone companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting Commission Orders that establish the rates and terms for EAS between Le Sueur and MCA at least 30 days before the implementation of EAS.
10. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

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